

green. Perhaps, like Ruskin, we should give the palm to the "Milky opals that gleam and shine like sullen fires in a pallid mist."¹

Vitality of Mollusca.—Prof. HEILPRIN called attention to a remarkable case of vitality among certain members of the fauna of the New Jersey coast. Specimens of *Nassa obsoleta* collected by Miss Emma Walter, at Atlantic City just one year ago, and retained dry during the entire year of their accidental captivity, were stated to be still alive, although subjected for several months to the abnormal temperature occasioned by proximity to a heated wall surface. This, the speaker contended, was perhaps the most extraordinary instance of vitality known among the marine mollusca, although among the terrestrial and freshwater forms, especially among those which undergo a partial hibernation, longer periods of semi-adaptation to imposed conditions have been noted. Instances of such survivals were cited by the speaker and Prof. Leidy.

JUNE 15.

Mr. JOHN H. REDFIELD in the chair.

Twenty-two persons present.

JUNE 22.

Mr. THOS. MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Thirteen persons present.

A paper, entitled "Notes on the Paspali of Le Conte's Monograph," by Geo. Vasey, was presented for publication.

Note on Quercus dentata.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited specimens of *Quercus dentata* with female flowers, from a specimen raised from an acorn received from Japan ten years ago. It is of very rapid growth, being now eighteen feet high, and six inches in circumference. So recently as the issue of the volume of *De Candolle's Prodrromus*, it was noted that the fruit was unknown. Some account of these female flowers might have an interest. Like our annual fruited oaks the flowers appear at the end of the young growth, in pairs on peduncles about half an

¹ The speaker had collected at the opal mines a number of specimens of minute bright white rhombohedrons showing the basal planes; these have been examined by Prof. E. S. Dana, who pronounces them alunite. Well crystallized alunite is not common, and he believed this is the first time its appearance has been noted in North America.

inch long, the peduncles of course springing from the axils of the upper leaves. Early in June a second growth occurs, on which

are also female flowers. On many of the stronger a third growth is made before autumn. The several growths during the season on this tree, have no doubt had much to do with its great size in so short a time. The involucre is a mass of loose scales, in the centre of which the four blackish ligulate stigmas are seen. Bisecting the flower verti-



1. Peduncle with flowers, *Quercus dentata*, natural size.
2. Beak of the ovary with stigmas enlarged.
3. Beak of the ovary with stigmas enlarged, *Quercus macrocarpa*.

calyx segments, immediately beneath the stigmas are represented here by numerous brown scale-like hairs, which simulate the scales of the involucre, and are at the apex of a slender stipe or beak four lines long, that seems to spring from the true ovary as if it were a true style, and the real pistils represent a four-cleft stigma at the apex. He did not remember any American species that had so long a beak in this early stage of growth, though there were some species that he had not had an opportunity of dissecting. From those that he had had the opportunity of examining the differences in this feature were striking, and the character could certainly be made more useful than it had been in enabling us to discriminate species in this very difficult genus. A horizontal section of the ovary shows it to be four-celled, with each cell two-ovuled.

JUNE 29.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Eighteen persons present.

A paper entitled "Notices of Nematoid Worms," by Dr. Joseph Leidy, was presented for publication.

Mineralogical Notes.—*Composition of Stromeyerite.*—Professor GEORGE A. KÖNIG placed on record the identification of Stromeyerite from Zacatecas, Mexico. At this locality the miners designate the various silver minerals by their colors as black silver, red silver, green silver, and blue silver. Under the latter name—plata azul—several minerals are undoubtedly comprehended, but probably the most prevalent is the mineral here identified as Stromeyerite. One large specimen is com-